CHAPTER **VIII**

ILLNESS AND DESPONDENCY

1827-1830

In a letter from Lyons to his sister, Disraeli, as we saw, remarked that he had been the ' reverse of idle' during-his Continental journey; a few months after his return a sequel to *Vivian Grrey* appeared in three volumes, and we may safely assume that it was at these volumes he had been working. This sequel, or ' second part,' need not long detain us. In Mr. Gladstone's diary for March 20, 1874, we find the entry, ' Finished *Vivian Grrey.* The first quarter extremely clever, the rest trash.'[1] Mr. Gladstone was never a sympathetic critic of Disraeli's novels, or of anything else for which Disraeli was responsible, and perhaps at the moment of that entry he was less likely than usual to be in a sympathetic mood. But there is little reason to quarrel with his judgment on the present occasion. What is still worth reading in the five original volumes of *Vivian Grrey* is the first. For the second trash is hardly too strong a word; and of the remaining three volumes almost the best that can be said is that they are void of offence.

After the wreck of his ambitious plans, Vivian Grey, it will be remembered, took refuge in Germany, and Ms adventures in that country are the subject of the second

[1] Morley's ***Life*** *of Gladstone,* II., p. 499.

